

FREE BOOKS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Fuller Ordinance Gains Friends as Councilmen Look Back on Cost.

PATRONS WANT TO BE HEARD

Claim That Changes Which Are Often Made Are Heavy Tax on Parents.

Quite a number of organizations, including several of the Public School Mothers' Clubs, desire to be heard in favor of the Fuller ordinance providing free books for public school children. Several Councilmen have already expressed themselves in favor of the proposition, provided it can be accomplished at anything like the low estimate placed on it by Mr. Fuller, while others favor as a substitute an inquiry into the cost of school books and the reasons for the frequent changes. One member of the Council has a child in the second grade at the public school, for whom he has purchased four different Second Readers this season. Another has a child in a higher grade, for whom a number of expensive text-books were ordered, in which no lessons, he says, have ever been assigned, and which were apparently an entirely useless expense, as the edition will have been changed before another child in the family, now just a year behind, reaches that grade.

Will Cost \$10,000 a Year.

The Fuller resolution places the cost of free books for the first year at \$10,000. Several patrons of the schools say that it is entirely too low. About 1,000 pupils at the John Marshall High School have each been required this season to furnish themselves with books costing more than \$10 each, so that the High School text-books alone would take up the entire appropriation if the city were forced to purchase at the prices charged to patrons under the agreements with publishers entered into by the State Board of Education.

So far the School Board has preserved a neutral attitude; it has taken no action favoring free text-books, nor has it defended itself against the oft-repeated charge made by several Councilmen and others that, except in the lower grades, books are changed arbitrarily and frequently, to the expense and annoyance of patrons. One Councilman will bring to the hearing the four Second Readers he has purchased this term; another will bring books ordered on his list, never yet opened and in which no lessons have been assigned or effort made to use in any part of the school curriculum.

Say Rulings Are Arbitrary.

Protest will also be made against the rule that children attending kindergarten must drink milk at the midday recess. Some children do not like milk, and there are a few to whom it is unattractive. Instances have been reported where children have been withdrawn from school because of this rule, and serious complaints have been made by parents of the cost of the milk. The school board has several times ordered the use of certain copyrighted blank forms. Formerly a 5-cent writing pad sufficed. Now each child must be provided with a copyrighted "spelling blank," a form book merely ruled to certain specified requirements, and costing several times the price of a simple exercise book of equally good paper and binding. Several Councilmen, discussing the school book situation last night, informally said that no long as present conditions continue, compulsory education was out of the question, and that the school board on parents who have several children in school was already excessive, and that hundreds of children were now being withdrawn for no other reason than the excessive cost of books, the arbitrary rulings of the authorities, and the perpetual changes which prevent a child moving from one school to another from using the same books, or of transferring them to younger brothers and sisters.

Grades Not Uniform.

One case was reported of a man with two sons in exactly the same grade, but attending different public schools. Yet one child uses a "Second Reader," while the other uses a "Step-by-Step Reader." Not even are the books uniform throughout the city in the same grades.

The Fuller resolution will come up for public hearing before the Council Committee on Finance next week. It is believed that the Council will be requested to get up more careful estimates of the exact cost of supplying text-books to all pupils, along lines already adopted by the school authorities of North Carolina, where books are furnished free of charge to pupils at a fixed rate of the session per pupil, the charge increasing as the pupil advances from grade to grade.

Charged With Theft.

Willie Perkins and Nelson Terry, colored, were arrested yesterday on a charge of stealing \$4.75 from Roland Jones.

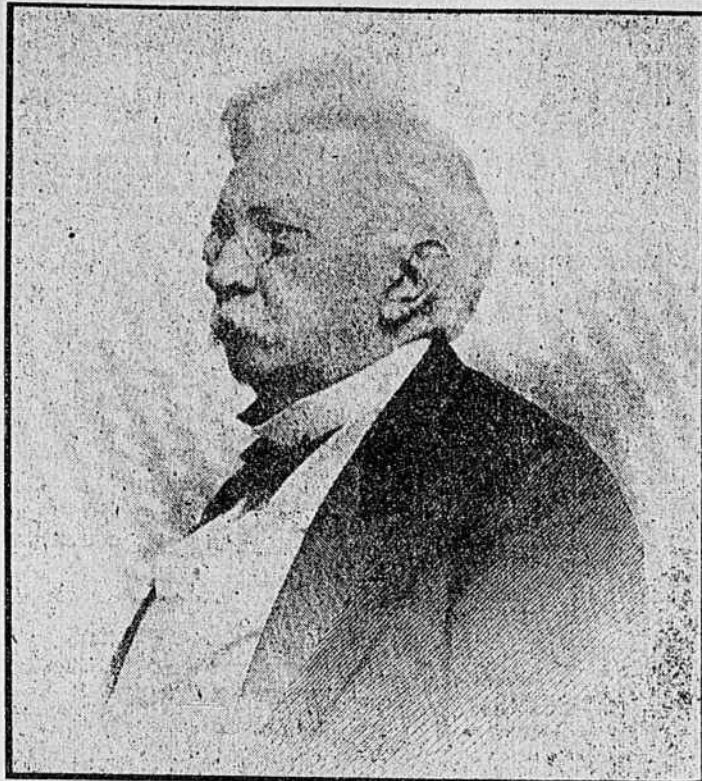
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Eighty-One Years Old To-Day



JOHN P. BRANCH.

TAYLOR TRIAL MAY BRING SENSATION

Former Stamp Clerk of Station B Will Be Arraigned This Morning.

When George E. Taylor, former stamp clerk at Station B of the Richmond post-office, is arraigned this morning in the United States District Court for Eastern Virginia, he will plead not guilty to an indictment charging him with embezzling government funds. His counsel, E. C. Folkes, State Senator from Richmond, is going to attempt to show, it was said last night, that the whole case against Taylor was a "put up job."

Indications are that the trial will offer something in the way of a sensation. Taylor has many friends in Richmond who are convinced of his innocence, and a large crowd is expected to witness the proceedings before Judge Edmund Waddill, Jr. It is likely that the trial will consume today and to-morrow.

The specific charge against Taylor is of stealing \$30. Bills aggregating that sum were marked by post-office inspectors and placed in the cash drawer of the superintendent of the station. Later, it is alleged, they were found in the till of the accused.

Another interesting case, which is scheduled to be called for trial on Wednesday, is that of the government against E. B. Taylor & Company, charged in an indictment with the false classification of shipments of freight. This promises to be hard fought case.

OFFER PRAYERS FOR THE BISHOP

Contracts Severe Cold, but Condition Is Not Regarded as Serious.

Prayers were offered yesterday in all Catholic churches for the recovery of Bishop Augustine Van de Vyver, of the Diocese of Richmond, who is detained at the Episcopal residence adjoining the Sacred Heart Cathedral by severe cold and complications.

Rev. J. J. O'Reilly, pastor of the Catholic parish, said last night that the condition of the bishop was not considered alarming, and that it was anticipated that he would be able to leave his room for a few days. Many well-known Catholic laymen called yesterday to inquire after the bishop, the announcement of whose illness caused some apprehension in Catholic circles yesterday.

Bishop Van de Vyver returned to Richmond on Tuesday from his old home in Belgium, where he was called by the death of a brother, also a bishop. Five members of his family have died in the past two years, which has filled his heart with sorrow. He recently contracted a severe cold, but his physician said last night that his condition was not regarded as dangerous. Bishop Van de Vyver, who is sixty-eight years old, has been in Richmond forty years.

MANY FAKERS HERE

Police and Detectives Detailed to Protect Crowds at Fair.

Sixteen special policemen appointed at the last monthly meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners will begin their duties to-day, and a corresponding number of the regular force will be detailed for duty at the State Fair Grounds. The detective sergeants, consisting of Sergeants Wren, Bailey, Wiltshire, Wiley, Kellam and Belton, will also report for duty at the fair. The local work will be handled by Detectives Krenzel and Atkinson and Acting Detective Gentry.

On account of the fact that many other fairs in this and neighboring States end as the Virginia Fair begins, a large following of those easy-going gentlemen who make a living by following fairs, circuses and political conventions in their itineraries is expected by the Police Department, and the public is again warned that it would be wise to take as little money and as few valuables as are necessary about with them during this week.

HALE AND HEARTY ON 81ST BIRTHDAY

John P. Branch Still Found in Working Harness and Glad to Be There.

CHURCH MEMBER 67 YEARS

Tells Friends He Is Happy That He Has Been Spared so Long by His Maker.

Hale and hearty and still vigorous, John P. Branch, president of the Merchant's National Bank, will celebrate his eighty-first birthday to-day. He told his friends yesterday that he would not celebrate by staying away from business, and he will be found in his accustomed seat, looking after the work which he has carried on for years.

In many respects Mr. Branch is regarded as the most remarkable citizen of Richmond. Certainly he is that when one considers his age and the fact that he is still in working harness—glad to be there and never happy unless his mind and his hand are busy with the duties which fall his way. He is probably the oldest member of the Methodist Church in Virginia in point of continued service; he joined when he was fourteen years old and has been on the roll for sixty-seven years.

"I don't feel a bit older than I did ten years ago," he said last night, "and I would rather be at work than idle."

Remembering that to-day is the anniversary of his birth, many of Mr. Branch's friends called at his home, 1 West Franklin Street, yesterday, to offer their congratulations. They found him in excellent spirits.

Birthday Sentiments.

One year ago when he observed his eighty-first birthday, Mr. Branch gave a reporter for The Times-Dispatch an interesting account of his life work. He said this in closing:

"I am honored by your request to tell you briefly the principles that have been the controlling factors in molding my life work, and to give you this world a vigorous child, born of an honest and sturdy parentage, of deep piety and character. Industry and courage in the faith of all obstacles was a conspicuous characteristic of both my father and mother, and that example in conformity to the lessons found in God's spoken words to the sons of men has been since my boyhood the very foundation stone on which I have endeavored to build my character and fix my standard in the estimation of those among whom I live."

"I have constantly kept in mind the injunction to fear God and keep His commandments; to be just and fear not; to owe no man anything but love; to earn my bread by the sweat of my brow, and in my business affairs to conform to the very strenuous and exacting to the golden rule of my standard."

"And this day, recognizing the certainty that I am facing the evening of life when the shadows must thicken, I will here make a record of my deep and humble thankfulness to the Giver of every good and perfect gift for a long life, in which, even though far falling short of my heart's longings, I have been spared to my family and those who so faithfully have honored me with their friendship."

ROBBED OF \$500

Caretaker of Oakwood Cemetery Reports Big Loss to Police.

Ray Burch, caretaker of Oakwood Cemetery, reported to the police yesterday that his room had been entered while he was asleep in bed and between \$400 and \$500 taken from his pillow. His home is at 303 Jessamine Street. He employs several young men to help him in his work in the cemetery, and they live with him. Investigation was made yesterday by detectives, but there was no arrest.

Burch awoke early Sunday morning, he said, and discovered that the windows in his room were open. He had left them down. He jumped out of bed and began searching for his money. Not a cent could be found, and he says he left the money under his pillow. He had expected to deposit it in a savings bank to-day.

Two Still Alarms of Fire.

Two still alarms of fire were turned in yesterday—one at 9:14 o'clock A. M. and the second at 6:32 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

The first call was to a chimney fire at 1215 Oakwood Avenue, which did no damage. The second alarm was from 1618 Grove Avenue, where a slight blaze resulted in little loss.

A Man Remarked

On reading our story in this space yesterday, "That is certainly true." He referred to our quotation from the world's greatest merchant, Marshall Field—

"If you want to succeed, save."

He attributed special value to the habit of saving, as a habit, aside from the monetary gain.

He Made Another Point

in saying that the ability to save money regularly made any man twice as valuable to his employer, because of the principles behind the habit.

The American National Bank

of Richmond, Virginia,

wishes to call this fact to your attention as an EMPLOYEE. YOUR employer will appreciate YOUR determination and energy. Save with us at the rate of 3 Per Cent. Compound Interest. We will render you and your money

Security and Service

POPULAR CRAZE RAMPANT NOW

Speaker at Baraca Meeting Refers to Effort of Getting Something for Nothing.

DRONES NOT NEEDED BY GOD

Master Never Goes to Lazy and Idle When Advancing His Work.

"God can't use a drone. He never goes to the lazy and idle when he wants men for his service," Luther C. Reynolds, national secretary of the Baraca-Philathea Association, told the large assembly at the Grove Avenue Baptist Church, yesterday afternoon at the mass-meeting of Virginia Baracas, apropos of the men and women who claim that they can't find time to do Baraca work. This class is the drone class, declared the speaker—busy people are the only ones needed for this work, Mr. Reynolds entitled his address "Pearls."

He related the story of the man who obtained by chicanery what he thought was a priceless pearl. He treasured it and spent his life gloating over it, only to find when it came to be appraised that it was worthless. The speaker applied the story to the popular craze for getting something for nothing. "Nothing is of any worth unless it is obtained by labor. It is true in God's work as in every other work. It is a mistake," said Mr. Reynolds, "to assume that the men who join the Baracas are all goody-goody and weaklings. The organization has in its ranks some of the strongest and bravest men in the country."

"Stirring Up the Fire."

The other address of the meeting was delivered by National Treasurer Frank Anderson on the subject, "Stirring Up the Fire." "Every person has in him some latent virtue or ability, no matter how little indication there is of it on the surface," he said, "and it needs only active search and questioning of one's heart to find out what it is and put it to noble use. We need to stir up the smoldering fires, with up and become active, useful agents for the good."

Yesterday's meeting was presided over by John F. Small, of Norfolk, and was opened with prayer by G. Oliver Timberlake. The final meeting of the present convention will be held to-morrow morning at the Seventh Street Christian Church.

The Baraca-Philathea Association, whose headquarters are at Syracuse, has now a total membership of 800,000, with 9,000 registered subsidiary organizations. The head of the organization is M. A. Hudson, of Syracuse.

HOLIDAY AT POST-OFFICE

Employees Will Get Half-Day Off for State Fair Wednesday.

Half-holiday will be observed Wednesday, Richmond Day at the State Fair, at the post-office. Postmaster Edgar Allan, Jr., has obtained permission from the department at Washington to give all of his employees part of the day off that they may have an opportunity to take in the big exposition or attend the exhibition ball game.

There will be only one delivery of mail in the morning, and at noon practically all business will cease. However, it will be necessary to keep a few clerks at work in order to avoid any congestion of mail, but these will be given their holiday later in the week.

Denies Charges.

Charles Spitzer, 112 North Eighth Street, was arrested yesterday on a charge of working at his trade on the Sabbath. Spitzer operates a clothes-cleaning establishment, and it is claimed by Policemen Williams, Taylor and Campadonio, who made the arrest, that some men were engaged in cleaning clothes when they entered. Spitzer denies the charges.

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Fall Overcoats, Raincoats and Hats

All novelties and staple styles that fashion approves. Everything necessary for walking or riding, for personal or livery use.

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CRITICS ANSWERED BY JAIL PHYSICIAN

Dr. William S. Gordon Declares That Same Course There Will Be Continued Unless He Is Ordered Otherwise by Judge Witt, of Hustings Court.

Replying yesterday to a report by the investigating committee to the State Board of Charities and Correction, Dr. William S. Gordon, jail physician, declared that "while acknowledging the good intentions of my critics, and expressing my willingness to co-operate with them, I propose to continue in the same course until notified by the judge that 'the condition with regard to the jail physician is far from satisfactory.'" Dr. Gordon's statement follows:

"The report, in The Times-Dispatch of October 1, of the Jail Investigating committee to the State Board of Charities and Correction includes certain statements regarding the medical department which are personal and misleading. Before the report of last year was published, one of the members of the committee interrogated me and was told, in addition to other information, why daily visits to the jail were not considered necessary by the physician. The report of last year was submitted without consulting me, and since the former explanation appears to have been unsatisfactory, I deem it my duty to reply to a repeated and more emphatic criticism, and to provide the public with the exact state of affairs."

The hospital steward is referred to as "a man, formerly a prisoner in the jail, and with no special medical training." It is true that this man was formerly a prisoner, but I see no reason for mentioning his past history, and his former feelings when he has turned over a new leaf and devoted himself to an honorable calling. There are many useful men in the world who have done wrong and mended their ways, and I have no objection to his being a drugist, and had gained some experience in a hospital over a period of two years.

Undergoes Big Change.

For one and a half years as a prisoner, and for two years as a free man, he has been trained by me as a nurse, has cared for a large number of medical and surgical cases, and has become invaluable by reason of his intelligence and fidelity to his duties. He has worked day and night to his own injury in carrying out my instructions, and has received not a cent of salary for his services, despite my efforts to have his just claims recognized. The pittance which he has picked up has barely enabled him to live, and has had to be supplemented at times by donations out of the pockets of his friends. Had he proved recreant to his trusts, he would not have been retained.

The recommendation that daily visits be made by the doctor is not practical, nor based upon the committee's knowledge of the peculiar conditions of the jail. Visits are for the purpose of interviewing each prisoner with regard to his health, a large proportion of the day, if not of the night, would be spent in listening to the groundless complaints of men and women who have nothing else to do but to make their physician's medical attendants. It is surprising that the cases multiply when the doctor appears. If the daily visits are to be made for the purpose of watching for one of those "sudden and violent seizures," which are said to be not uncommon, I reply that they are apt to occur in the doctor's absence, as in his presence. He might, however, catch one on the fly. If the visits are made in order to ascertain from the nurse whether there be any cases needing attention, I reply that this can be done, and is done, as easily through the telephone.

Hospital Is Excellent.

The jail hospital is an excellent one and well equipped. The nurse is alert, and his knowledge of human nature and long experience in dealing with prisoners enable him to act with judgment in the matter of summoning the doctor. The inmates are aware that they can report to the nurse when

TO OBSERVE ANNIVERSARY OF GREATER THEATRE FIRE

It is announced by the vestry of Monumental Church that special services will be held on December 25, to commemorate the death anniversary of the Richmond Theatre fire. The details of the program have yet to be worked out.

Monumental Church is located on the site of the theatre, and was built as a memorial to those who lost their lives in the most horrible event of the city's history. The Governor of Virginia, with many distinguished men of the time, were among the victims.

LOCAL SPORTS NOW AFFECT THOSE UPPER-LIP WHISKERS

Along with the fuzzy hat and the Pile-ditch coat has come another exotic from across the big pond—the mustache. If you are of the male sex, maley, and ache to take hank as a sprightly cosmopolite, wear a scrub growth on your upper lip. It is fashion's latest madness, and if you are a wise one you'll can your little safety razor and raise some down.

Once upon a time, to assume the mustache was to assume an exclusive stock in trade of villains as they were represented on the stage and in historical novels. The whirligig of time brought changes. Villains have become bare-faced, and the colonel has shaved off his bristles. But the mustache was not to perish from the land. It cropped up on Fifth Avenue and spread to Broadway. With the debut of the \$150 tour of Europe, more and more Americans migrated in the summer to lands where even the bootblacks and waiters wore mustaches. When they got back to their old haunts they brought the habit with them, and New York took hold. And when New York takes hold of anything, the rest of the country joins the parade.

It hit staid old Boston, and Beacon Hill took it to its heart because it was English. It spread to Cambridge, and at once every sophomore in Harvard began applying hair-restorers and other fertilizers to force a growth which nature vouchsafed all too gingerly. Then swam into the public eye the mustached stage and magazine hero, and his rude adornment was

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Start the week right and deposit a portion of last week's earnings. One dollar starts an account.

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